WELCOME
17 JUN 1954
A.

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1953

To the Chairman and Members of the
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GELLIGAER

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1953.

The Report is prepared on lines indicated in Circular 1/54 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

The Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. J. Brown, is included .

The Members have continued to give my colleagues and myself much help and encouragement. The Chief Officers have afforded me every assistance, while the Staff of the Health Department have been loyal and energetic in their work.

As judged by the Table of Vital Statistics, the health of the community has been satisfactory. I have included a chart showing weekly Sickness Claims made upon the Ministry of National Insurance during the year. While these claims are not wholly from residents in the Gelligaer Area, the chart shows the seasonal variation of sickness.

The Estimated Population is now less than 36,000. I believe this is the first time for the estimated population of the neighbouring Authority of Caerphilly to be greater than that of Gelligaer.

In the Section on Housing, information on progress and difficulties is given. Despite the estimated decrease in population, the demand for housing accommodation continues to increase.

The Public Services of Water Supply, Drainage, Sewerage and Public Cleansing functioned adequately throughout the year. The use by the Council of industrial spoil and domestic refuse to improve a playing field was an added source of atmospheric pollution during dry weather.

Indiscriminate disposal of domestic refuse continues, until the beauty that should be around us is hidden beneath tins and ashes.

Rodent Control was continued during the year. Inspection of Mines for Rodent Infestation was also continued. Success in reducing the rat population, both underground and where people live and work, requires continued effort.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis continues to decline :-

1940	77
1941	67
1942	83
1943	83
1944	89
1945	68
1946	63
1947	49
1948	49
1949	51
1950	54
1951	38
1952	44
1953	35

The 35 new cases notified in 1953 include 1 inward transfer, so that the number actually discovered in the area was 34.

A special survey of two schools in the area was carried out during the year by the County Medical Officer and the Chest Physician, with the assistance of a Mass Radiography Unit. All the pupils and staff were invited to undergo appropriate examination, and the response was good. Two pupils were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis, while two others needed to be kept under observation. It was not possible to decide the mode of infection, as there was more than one possible source.

The customary visiting of new cases by the Health Visitors was carried out, while applicants for Council Houses who were cases or contacts of Tuberculosis were visited by the Medical Officer of Health. During the year, the Council rehoused nine families where Tuberculosis was a factor.

For the ninth successive year no child died from Diphtheria, nor was a case of Diphtheria admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

The Council continued to take measurements of Atmospheric Pollution.

The examination of milk and ice cream was continued.

Very soon, all the milk consumed in the area will be pasteurised milk. During the year, consideration was given to the condition of milk going into the pasteurising plants. It is essential that milk arriving at the Plants is in a wholesome condition.

A course of lectures on the Clean Handling of Food was given by your Officers during the year. These lectures were well attended.

The new pipeline for sewage disposal at Bedlinog was not completed during the year, but the work has been commenced.

Nearly all sewage is now taken into the trunk sewer,but there are a few cases where foul water and sewage drain pipes have been connected to surface water drains. These pollute water courses, and oftentimes are difficult to trace.

The Council is aware of the need to undertake slum clearance. Many houses in the area, especially at Pontlottyn, are not fit for human habitation.

In conclusion, I draw your attention to Mr. Brown's Report, which shows the amount of detailed work which has been done during the year.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

W. BOWEN OWEN

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

W. Bowen Owen, J.P., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

H. J. Brown, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

District Sanitary Inspectors

T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

D. G. Vallis, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Rodent Officer

T. J. Morris

Clerical Staff

L. Chilton

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Population	-	35,980
Total acreage	-	16,772
Rateable value	-	£130,893
No. inhabited houses	-	9,747
Product of 1d. rate	-	£472

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GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman - G. T. Richards, J.P.
Vice-Chairman - Mrs. S. L. Williams, J.P.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

D. E. Burgess.
D. B. Cooke .
John Davies.
H. V. Edwards.
D. J. Francis.
Mrs. A. Haman.
W. A. Hancock, J.P. C.C.
William Jones
W. J. Kedward, J.P. C.C.
W. H. Lee. C.C.
Hopkin Lewis.
Samuel Lewis, J.P.
D. J. Old.
W. J. Payne.
Gwyn Phillips.
William Poyntz.
H. L. Roberts.
Brynley Roberts.
T. G. Walters.
Cledwen Williams.
H. J. Williams.
Richard Williams.
Richard Yates.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - W. H. Lee ,C.C.
Vice - Chairman - D. J. Francis

Members

D. B. Cooke.
D. J. Francis.
W.J. Kedward, J.P. C.C.
W. H. Lee. C.C.
Samuel Lewis, J.P., C.C.
D. J. Old.
Gwyn Phillips.
G. T. Richards, J.P.
Mrs. S. L. Williams, J.P.
Brynley Roberts.
T. G. Walters.
Cledwen Williams.
Richard Williams.

CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council - D. W. C. Morgan, Ll. B.
Treasurer and Accountant - Rhys Williams.
Engineer and Surveyor - W. T. Luke, B.Sc.,A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager - D. T. Hopkins,A.A.L.P.A.,A.R.S.I.
Omnibus Manager - W. H. Collins.
Rating Officer - D. Emlys Evans.

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		Est. population 1953	BIRTHS No. of births	BIRTHS rate per 1,000 population	DEATHS No. of deaths	DEATHS Rate per 1,000 population	INFANT MORTALITY Deaths under 1 year	INFANT MORTALITY Rate per 1,000 live Births	NEO NATAL MORTAILITY Deaths under 4 weeks	NEO NATAL MORTAILITY Rate per 1,000 live births
England and Wales				15.5		11.4		26.8		17.7
Administrative County		736,300	11,897	16.16	8,673	11.78	371	31.18	230	19.33
Urban Districts		533,100	8,728	16.37	6,363	11.94	254	29.10	156	17.87
Rural Districts		203,200	3,169	15.60	2,310	11.37	117	36.92	74	23.35
Health Division.	Constituent Dist.									
Aberdare & Mountain Ash.	Aberdare Urban	40,700	552	13.56	600	14.74	17	30.80	14	25.36
	Mt.Ash Urban	30.970	525	16.95	349	11.27	13	24.76	9	17.14
Caerphilly & Gelligaer.	Caerphilly U.	36,550	735	20.11	339	9.27	27	36.73	15	20.41
	Gelligaer U.	35,980	664	18.45	389	10.81	21	31.63	8	12.05
Mid-Glamorgan	Bridgend U.	13,770	224	16.27	137	9.95	9	40.18	7	31.25
	Maesteg U.	22,880	423	18.49	252	11.01	14	33.10	9	21.28
	Ogmore &Garw U.	9.781	375	16.73	258	11.51	16	42.67	9	24.00
	Porthcawl U.	22,420	139	14.21	134	13.70	6	43.17	4	28.78
	Penybont Rural	35,250	584	16.57	456	12.94	19	32.53	12	20.55
Neath & District	Neath M.B.	31,590	448	14.18	355	11.24	8	17.86	6	13.39
	Neath Rural	41,200	616	14.95	448	10.87	31	50.32	23	37.34
Pontypridd& Llantrisant	Pontypridd U.	38,200	579	15.16	645	16.88	11	19.00	8	13.82
	Llantrisant R.	25,570	512	20.02	263	10.29	20	39.06	10	19.53
Port Talbot & Glyncorrwg	Glyncorrwg U.	9,490	183	19.28	101	10.64	8	43.72	3	16.39
	Port Talbot M.B.	45,170	836	18.51	501	11.09	16	19.14	12	14.35
South East Glamorgan	Barry M.B.	41,100	727	17.66	402	9.77	22	30.26	14	19.26
	Cardiff Rural	36,550	483	13.21	461	12,61	8	16.56	6	12.42
	Cowbridge M.B.	1,029	12	11.66	12	11.66	-	-	-	-
	Cowbridge R.	20,850	323	15.51	120	5.76	8	24.77	5	15.48
	Penarth J.	18,760	317	16.90	221	11.78	3	9.46	1	3,15
West Glamorgan	Gower R.	11,630	203	17.45	137	11.78	9	44.33	4	19.70
	Llwchwr J.	25,550	323	12.64	267	10.45	12	37.15	5	15.48
	Pontardawe R.	32,170	448	13.93	425	13.21	22	49.11	14	31.25
Rhondda	Rhondda J.	109,100	1,666	15.27	1401	12.84	51	30.61	32	19.21

Contributions in respect of salaries are made by the County Council towards emoluments of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors.

The last ascertained annual contributions of subsidy in respect of the various services were as follows :-

Services	Period of 1 year ended	Amount
Salaries of Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspectors	31st.March, 1953	£1,238
Contributions by Glamorgan County Council to salary of Medical Officer in respect of M. & C. W. duties	31st.March, 1953	£225

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population - 35, 980

Live Births	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	640	347	293
Illegitimate	24	11	13
Total	664	358	306
Still-Births			
Legitimate	21	13	8
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Total	22	14	8

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BIRTHS

1939	734
1940	778
1941	733
1942	785
1943	777
1944	791
1945	742
1946	794
1947	830
1948	786
1949	759
1950	708
1951	631
1952	629
1953	664

In 1951 and 1952 I remarked upon the reduction in the number of births recorded. There is an increased number of births recorded for 1953.

As a matter of interest I give the following figures :-

Births :-		
1901	-	717
1911	-	1,720
1921	-	1,363
1931	-	847
1941	-	733
1951	-	631

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INFANTILE MORTALITY

		Total	Male	Female
Deaths of Infants under one year	-	21	12	9
Legitimate	-	21	12	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

As shown in the Table of Vital Statistics, the Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births in England and Wales was 26.8
in the Administrative County - 31.18
in Gelligaer - 31.63

Gelligaer :-	1947	- Infant Mortality Rate	- 64
	1948	- - do -	42
	1949	- - do -	36
	1950	- - do -	36.72
	1951	- - do -	28.53
	1952	- - do -	31.8
	1953	- - do -	31.63

Of the 21 Infants who died, 8 were under the age of 1 months. All these infants died of prematurity, or birth injury.

13 Infants died between the age of one month and one year. Of these, 5 died because of development defect, and 6 because of acute infection.

The causes of Infant Deaths are tabulated below :-

Age	Deaths occurring at Home		Deaths occurring in Hospital	
	No.	Cause	No.	Cause
0 - 1 day	1	Birth injury	1	Birth injury
			1	Prematurity
1 - 2 days	-		1	-do-
2 - 3 days	-		2	-do-
3 - 4 days	-		1	Birth injury
4 - 5 days	-		1	Prematurity
5 - 6 days	-		-	
6 - 7 days	-		-	
7 - 14 days	-		-	
14 - 28 days	-		-	
1 - 2 months	1	Congenital Heart Dis.	1	Spina Bifida
	1	Misadventure		
2 - 3 months	1	- do -	1	Spina Bifida
			1	Congenital Heart Dis.
3 - 4 months	2	Convulsions	-	
4 - 5 months	1	Spina Bifida	-	
5 - 6 months	-		-	
6 - 7 months	1	Br.Pneumonia	-	
7 - 8 months	-		1	Gastro-enteritis
8 - 9 months	-		-	
9 - 10 months	-		-	
10 - 11 months	-		1	Br.Pneumonia
11 - 12 months	-		1	Pulm. T.B.
	8		13	

D E A T H S

Deaths during the year numbered 389 - 224 Males, 165 Females.

1939	-	474
1940	-	435
1941	-	439
1942	-	410
1943	-	427
1944	-	440
1945	-	454
1946	-	422
1947	-	437
1948	-	356
1949	-	422
1950	-	406
1951	-	482
1952	-	433
1953	-	389

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year.

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In considering the Registrar General's Returns, there are pints of interest. Following there is a Table showing the number of deaths in each of three age groups for the past eight years. In considering the age at death, it is interesting to note how many people live beyond the allotted span of three score years and ten.

Age at Death	Male	Female
65 - 70	29	15
70 - 75	32	19
75 - 80	29	31
80 and over	29	39

A comparison of age at death in the past few years is shown :-

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. occurring before the age of 1	70	43	53	33	27	26	18	20	21
No. occurring between 1 and 65	193	157	168	156	150	150	193	144	145
No. occurring upward of 65.	195	222	216	167	245	230	271	269	223

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The Chief Causes of Death were as follows :-

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease ...	69	70	139
Deaths from Cancer	28	26	54
Deaths from Vascular Lesion of Nervous System...	26	21	47
Deaths from Bronchitis	28	5	32
Deaths from Measles	1	-	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis, Enteritis ...	1	1	2
Deaths from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	3	9
Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	1	1
Deaths from Road Accidents	3	-	3
Deaths from Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Deaths from Influenza	-	1	1
Deaths from Pneumonia	7	4	11
Deaths from other Diseases of Respiratory System	10	1	11
Deaths from Violent Causes	13	6	19

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Deaths from Tuberculosis

Total number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis was 10.

Deaths from this Disease for the past few years are as follows :-

1939	-	28
1940	-	30
1941	-	24
1942	-	22
1943	-	31
1944	-	22
1945	-	27
1946	-	15
1947	-	20
1948	-	21
1949	-	26
1950	-	19
1951	-	13
1952	-	9
1953	-	10

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DEATHS FROM CANCER

The number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer was 54 :-

1939	-	55
1940	-	43
1941	-	41
1942	-	49
1943	-	37
1944	-	61
1945	-	45
1946	-	57
1947	-	51
1948	-	44
1949	-	54
1950	-	55
1951	-	60
1952	-	64
1953	-	54

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In considering the causes of death, it is noted that Disease of Heart and Circulation is the chief killer. Cancer is the second main cause, while Vascular Lesion of the Nervous System is the third.

If the active, working span of life is the age of 18 to 65, then :-

Disease of the Heart and Circulation killed	- 32 men,	23 women.
Cancer killed	- 14 men,	7 women
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System killed	- 8 men,	8 omen

in their working life.

Deaths from Tuberculosis were 10. Mortality from this Disease is, happily, very small, but it does not reveal the amount of invalidism which the disease still causes amongst men and women in the prime of life - that is between 16 and 65.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 54. Cancer of the Lung is a much discussed disease. In this area deaths from this cause in the past few years are as follows :-

1950	- 5	-	all males
1951	- 13	-	11 males, 2 females
1952	- 6	-	all males
1953	- 4	-	3 males, 1 female.

Accidents caused death in 19 instances

Accident in the Home	- 7
Accident at Work	- 6
Accident on the Road	- 3
Others	- 3

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Number of Cases of Measles notified - 360
Number of Cases of Whooping Cough notified - 36

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - AGE DISTRIBUTION

Disease	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	75+	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	4	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	13
Pneumonia	-	4	1	-	-	3	5	4	3	2	-	22
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	-	-	-	13
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	6	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	12

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 10	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	2	4	-	-	2	1	-	-
45 - 55	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	15	17	2	1	6	3	-	1

Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis - 10
Number of Deaths of Notified Cases - 9
Number of Deaths of Non-notified Cases - 1

Ratio of Non-notified cases to Total Deaths from Tuberculosis 1:10
Investigation of the non-notified case was found at post-mortem examination to be a case of Tuberculosis.

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PARATYPHOID FEVER

In 1952, this disease was prevalent in South Wales, when Gelligaer was one of the first areas to be affected. A number of patients kindly provided specimens for examination at the Public Health Laboratory to ascertain if they were "carriers" - either persistent or intermittent - after the infection. The investigation was continued for twelve months. It was found that all remained completely free.

In June, 1953, samples of sewage from a main sewer at Bargoed were examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. In the first of these specimens, Paratyphoid organisms were found, but were not found in later specimens.

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IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Year	Number of Children Immunised for First Time
1940	816
1941	1,859
1942	3,504
1943	1,305
1944	820
1945	939
1946	851
1947	780
1948	705
1949	469
1950	437
1951	483
1952	381
1953	417

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

	Primary Vaccination	Re-Vaccination
1950	38 ...	18
1951	137 ...	64
1952	153 ...	26
1953	177 ...	45

I am indebted to Dr. Powell, the Divisional Medical Officer of the County Council for the information concerning Immunisation and Vaccination.

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H O U S I N G

Mr. T. Luke, B.Sc., the Council's Surveyor and Engineer, has supplied the following information :-

a) -Number of Houses completed and occupied during the year 1953 (permanent) 92

b) -Number partly completed during the year 1953 26

c) -Number sanctioned but not commenced 112

d) -Number completed and occupied since 1918 1192

By Private Enterprise, Building Societies, etc.

a) -Number of Houses completed and occupied during 1953... 83

b) -Number of Houses partly completed during 1953 ... 273

c) -Number for which plans were passed but were not commenced during 1953 161

In my Report for 1948, I stated that there were 1,300 families desirous of living in Council Houses. In December, 1952, the Housing Manager reported that there were 1,700 applicants for Council Houses. Recently, the Manager reported that the number of applicants was 1,767.

In 1953, the Local Authority completed 92 houses, while 83 were completed by Private Enterprise and the Coal Industry Housing Association. It is not likely that the Local Authority will erect many houses in 1954, but a large number will be completed by the Coal Industry Housing Association.

In considering the applications for Council Houses, the following facts are observed :-

Number of applicants who are sub-tenants - 1,253
Number of sub-tenant applicants - husband and wife only - 334
Number of sub-tenant applicants - husband, wife and one child -548

So far very little has been done for the small family, although, as stated in my Report for last year, future building programmes will include a substantial percentage of houses for small families.

Very little has been done for families living in grossly sub - standard houses. As time goes on, it becomes increasingly difficult, in fact it becomes impossible, to keep some of these houses dry. A few old houses are definitely in danger of collapsing.

Last year I noted that the Council was concerned about the way in which a small proportion of their tenants failed to take reasonable care of the new houses. A few are not careful to meet their obligations concerning the rent. During the year 1953, the Council was obliged to evict nine families, involving 44 persons, of whom 27 were children. These stern measures were taken only after the most persevering and patient approaches.

In the introduction to my report, I state that the health of the community, as judged by the table of vital statistics, is satisfactory. Many people, especially mothers of young children, harassed by the mental and physical strain of living in apartments, must wonder what is the official definition of satisfactory health.

The task ahead is much the same as it has been during the post war period, but whereas new houses are slowly increasing in number, old houses are gathering momentum on their journey towards decay.

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ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Conditions are similar to what they were in 1952.

Measurement of pollution at Bargoed was continued during the year. While the total pollution due to dust and grit was slightly less than in 1952, the occasional high figures for "Total Solids" is disturbing.

Month	Rainfall *	Total Solids **	Sulphur as SO3
January	1.47	4.37	0.45
February	3,41	12,63	0.46
March	2.42	14.98	1.11
April	4.75	11.00	0.47
May	4.05	15.07	0.56
June	2.52	10.77	0.41
July	6.54	14.00	0.11
August	5.30	9.20	0.16
September	6.18	26.1	0.24
October	4.09	19.64	0.45
November	5.60	10.70	0.27
December	1.86	13.70	0.76

* in inches. ** tons per square mile.

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PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. James, B.Sc., A.M. Inst.C.E., Engineer to the Rhymney Valley Water Board, for the following report on the Public Water Supply to the Area :-

"

Bacteriological Examination of Water

a) Treated Water Source	Satisfactory result.	Just above limit for satis. result.	Unsatis.	Total.
Rhymney Bridge	69	1	2	72
Deri	47	2	-	49
Taf Fechan and Rhymney Bridge-mixed	26	2	-	28
Taf Fechan	24	3	1	28
Totals	166	8	3	177
b) Raw Water Rhymney Bridge	10	27	14	51

Total number of samples taken for the year ended 31/12/53 - 288

In regard to development &c. the Board, during the year ending 31st. December, 1953, has made provision for two new housing sites developed by the National Coal Board, viz. 200 houses erected at Fochriw and 150 at Cefn Hengoed. At Fochriw, to meet the extra demand for water, the Board laid a new 6" supply main from Fochriw to Dowlais Point 1, and this was completed in October. In spite of some difficulties, the Board maintained supplies in all districts in your Area throughout the year "

In addition to the water sampling carried out by the Rhymney Valley Water Board, your Sanitary Inspectors have continued to take monthly samples of Taf Fechan, Rhymney Bridge and Deri supplies. During the year deviation from "Satisfactory" was rare.

The Water Board found it necessary during the year to advise the Constituent Authorities that water demands were now reaching the limit of capacity to supply. While arrangements for augmenting supply are being planned, new housing sites will be subject to careful consideration in relation to water supply.

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FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following report :-

Samples taken by the County Sanitary Inspector in the Area of the Gelligaer Urban District Council during the year ended 31.12.53 are as follows :-

Milk	-	11
Cake Flour	-	10
Blancmange Powder	-	3
Self Raising Flour	-	9
Semolina	-	1
Sponge Jelly Trifle	-	1
Sponge Mixture	-	9
Mustard	-	2
Baking Powder	-	2
Soya Flour	-	2
Butter	-	5
Sultanas	-	3
Mayonaise	-	1
Marmalade	-	3
Custard Powder	-	2
Cut Peel	-	1
Pudding Mixture	-	2
Table Jelly	-	6
Synthetic Cream	-	1
Dessert Powder	-	2
Canned Apples	-	1
Oatmeal	-	1
Fish Paste	-	2
Vegetable Soup	-	1
Gravy Browning	-	1
White Pepper	-	1
Jam	-	5
Sandwich Spread	-	1
Shredded Beef Suet	-	1
Meat Paste	-	1
Vinegar	-	2
Ice Cream	-	4
Currants	-	1
Tea/Margarine	-	3
Coffee& Chicory	-	2
Orange Squash	-	2
Marshmallow Creme	-	1
Tea Cake Mixture	-	2
Condensed Milk	-	2
Raisins	-	2
Pastry Mixture	-	1
Glace Cherries	-	1
Cooking Fat	-	1
Mincemeat	-	1
Lemon Curd	-	1
Cornflower	-	1
Plain Flour	-	1
Demerera Sugar	-	1

One sample of Ice Cream was found, on analysis, to be deficient in Milk Fat to the extent of not less than 30%. Proceedings were taken against the vendor, resulting in a fine of £2. plus £3.3.0 Advocate's Fee and 15/- Analyst's Fee.

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M O R T U A R Y

The Council has continued to maintain a Mortuary. During the year it was used on 12 occasions. Post Mortem examinations were performed on 6 occasions.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of the Act during the year. Consideration was given to two cases. In one case, better facilities were obtained ; in the other case, action was postponed at the request of the householder.

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MEAT INSPECTION

Most of the meat consumed in the Area comes into the Butchers' Shops from the Maesycwmmer Abattoir. To enable a full time Sanitary Inspector - qualified in Meat Inspection - to be stationed at the Abattoir, the Gelligaer Council agreed with neighbouring authorities to assist the Bedwas and Machen Council, in whose area the Abattoir is situated, to pay the salary of the Inspector.

Gelligaer pays 1/3rd. - which for 1953 amounted to £131. Bedwellty also pays 1/3rd., while Mynyddislwyn and Bedwas and Machen each pay 1/6th.

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F O O D

No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year, although one family was found to be infected with Salmonella Typhimurium.

A number of babies in the local hospital were infected with this organism following the admission of an infant from this family.

It has not long been appreciated that babies are peculiarly susceptible to certain bowel infections, which are extraordinarily persistent.

Clean Food Campaign

A succesful course of Clean Food Lectures, followed by an examination, was held at Bargoed in December.

The Lectures and Examinations, sponsored by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, were cordially and financially supported by the Council

Twenty eight candidates who sat the examination passed, and were presented by the Council with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Certificate showing their proficiency in the Clean Handling of Food.

As nearly all the candidates were engaged in the Food Trade, this course of Lectures was very successful.

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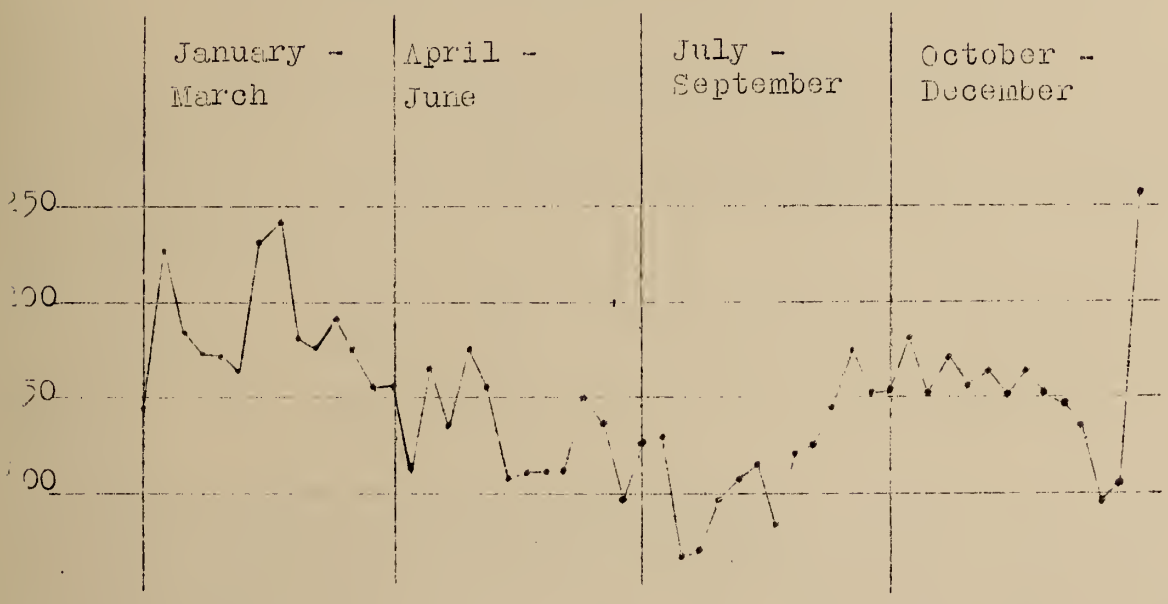
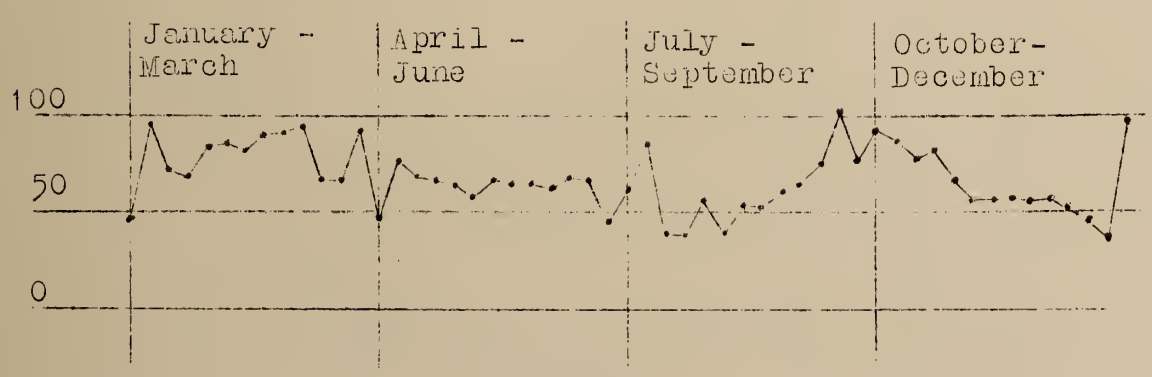
FRESH SICKNESS CLAIMS MADE UPON THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL INSURANCE DURING 1953

BARGOED



YSTRAD MYNACH



SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR - 1953

I herewith beg to report on the work done by my colleagues and myself during the year 1953.

As I look back over reports of previous years, I am interested to note that a gradual change has taken place in the general character of the work which has, of course, affected the routinr duties of the Department. The emphasis seems to be upon more personal hygiene, in addition to environment, although the latter still has, of course, a very important bearing on the well being of the community.

The routine work consists largely of visits and inspections, and the offering of advice and co-operation wherever possible.

The number of visits and inspections made were as follows :-

As a result of Notifiable Disease	54
As a result of complaints received...	313
In connection with housing repairs...	509
To verminous houses	19
To Dairies	56
To Factories(including Bakehouses and Sausage Making premises)	206
To Schools	43
To Markets	3
To Slaughterhouses	13
To Piggeries	23
To Common Lodging Houses	24
To Premises without Mains water supply	45
To Colliery premises	17
To Railway Goods Depots...	4
To Cinemas and Institutes	47
To Meat Shops	175
To Grocery Stores	137
To Cafes, Canteens and Ice Creameries	273
To Licensed Houses and Clubs...	25
To Fish Friers	42
To Offensive Trades	43
To Refuse dumps, Back Lanes, and Culverts	145
Revisits	1,473

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Action taken under the various Public Health Acts was as follows:-

Abatement of Nuisances (Public Health Act,1936)

Number of Informal Notices served	376
Number of Statutory Notices served...	187
Legal Proceedings taken	17

Pail Closet Conversions

Number of Pail Closets converted to Water Closets and connected to sewers 8
Number of new Water Closets erected 15

Verminous Houses

No. Notices served to cleanse verminous houses 8
No. of houses sprayed and fumigated by the Department ... 11
(Council Houses)

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WATER SUPPLY

No. of existing houses provided with Mains Water Supply .. 2
No. of existing houses where water service pipes were renewed ... 21

Water samples taken for analysis .-

Bacteriological results :-
Satisfactory 39
Unsatisfactory 1

Chemical results .-
Satisfactory 37
Unsatisfactory 2

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Milk Production and Distribution

There are 74 Milk Producers and 37 Retailers in the area.
There are no Pasteurising Plants operating in the district.
There are 9 Farms licensed for producing T.T. Milk.

Milk Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination

Tuberculin Tested Milk - 12.
Pasteurised Milk - 14.
Ungraded Milk - 111.

Table showing the results obtained from the Laboratory

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory	Total
T.T.Milk: Imported	-	-	-
Local	8	4	12
Pasteuried: Imported	13	-	13
Local	1	-	1
Ungraded: Imported	10	-	-
Local	65	36	111
Total	97	40	137

Number samples tested for Tubercle Bacilli - 55
Satisfactory results - 50
Number showing Tubercle Bacilli present - 1
Number of samples no results obtained - 4

CLEAN FOOD BYELAWS

The question of Clean Handling of Food has once again occupied the attention of the Department, in an endeavour to improve the conditions under which food is handled, and in advising personnel employed as to improved methods.

Many of the premises are old and not easy to adapt to modern requirements. Where buildings are only partly occupied as lock-up shops,which are on the street front, and the remainder of the property occupied separately as dwellings it is often difficult to effect satisfactory drainage etc. The sewer systems usually run at the back of all properties. Most of the food shops now have hot and cold water available, but it would be an advantage if the Byelaws were a little more stringent on this point. The provision of a gas ring is sometimes considered sufficient to comply with the Byelaws.

The number of premises where food is sold or distributed in the area is set out in the following table :-

Grocers	-	108
Butchers	-	36
Bakers	-	14
Cake Shops	-	22
Cafes	-	18
Canteens	-	14
Fish Friers	-	22
Fish Mongers & Greengrocers	-	30

There are also a number of small parlour shops which carry on a mixed trade and where food is also sold. These present a problem which is very difficult.

There are 22 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the preparation of food. These are chiefly for sausage making.

Ice Cream Regulations

Most of the ice cream sold in the area is now pre-packed and imported into the district from large manufacturers.

There are 13 manufacturers who make ice cream for their own trade. These have adequate facilities and equipment.

The result of samples taken during the year is as follows:-

Number of samples taken	-	52
Satisfactory	-	48
Unsatisfactory	-	4

UNSOUND FOOD (SURRENDERED)

Article	Diseased or Unsound	Weight in lbs.
Beef	Unsound	322
Pork	do.	44
Offal	do.	3
Bacon or Ham	do.	28
Sausages	do.	36
Ham (canned)	do.	298
Meat (do.)	do.	604
Milk or Cream	do.	304
Fruit and Vegetables	do.	3629
Fish (canned)	do.	580
Fish (wet)	do.	188
Other foods	do.	233
		6259

2 tons 15 cwts 99 lbs.

All condemned food is conveyed to the Council's Refuse Tipping Grounds and buried.

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SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

The amount of occasional slaughtering of Bacon Pigs for Cottagers and Farmers for their own use has been less than in previous years 30 pigs have been examined, and also three sheep for emergency slaughter.

There are 8 Licensed Slaughtermen in the area.

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FACTORIES' ACT, 1937

There are in the district 55 Factories, including Bakehouses, Joineries, Engineering and other various trades.

Without Mechanical Power (sections 2,3,4,5,6,7)	-	10
With mechanical power (to which section 7 only applies)	-	41
Other premises	-	4
Number of inspections made during the year	-	206
Notices served for want of cleanliness	-	6
Notices served for structural repairs	-	4
Notices served for insufficient or unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences	-	-
No. of outworkers in the District	-	1

RODENT CONTROL

A systematic schedule of inspections and treatments has been carried out during the year, and, in agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, two sewer treatments were done, one between April 13th. and 30th., and the other between October 21st. and November 7th.

For the first sewer treatment two men were employed, and for the second only one man.

From the results of these and previous treatments it has become evident which parts of the public sewers are infested and must receive periodic treatment, Very little trouble is experienced in the newer parts of the sewer systems.

Surface Infestation

The number of surface infestations dealt with by the Rodent Officers in various premises were :-

	Inspected	Treated	Visits Made
Dwelling houses -	490	146	721
Business premises -	41	16	116

Refuse Tips

All the refuse tips in the area have been inspected and those which are in use require frequent attention, especially the tips at Troedrhiwfuwch and Hengoed, On the sites where tipping has been discontinued the infestations have been cleared up.

Number of tipping sites inspected	-	8
Number fumigated	-	5
Number of runways discovered	-	47

River Banks and Water Courses

A good deal of infestation arises around the River Banks and culverts and much attention has to be given to the matter as I am of the opinion that most of the surface infestations originate from these and the connecting surface water drains. 119 runways were discovered and fumigated.

Farm Buildings

Visits of inspection have been made to all Farms and outbuildings in the area. 124 such visits have been made during the year.

Collieries

The six Collieries situated in the area have again been visited and inspections carried out on the surface and below ground. Some of these collieries are reported to have heavy infestations which extend far into the workings. We have received the ready co-operation of the Colliery Officials and the Rodent operatives who have now been appointed at all the collieries.

Yours faithfully,

H. J. BROWN

Senior Sanitary Inspector